

# THE BELEN NEWS

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## "DESERVING" DEMOCRATS.

Howell Ernest was removed from office by legislative act because he was unfit to hold the position of an auditor. When he had been ousted it was found and proved that he could not keep his own accounts straight. He made a settlement of his accounts upon demand of the state. Yet McDonald forced this man into what is probably the most important position in the state under present conditions; that of secretary of the state tax commission; a post where every interest of New Mexico, public and private, demands a man of intelligence, of financial experience and of sound judgement. It is not Ernest who is to blame for the unhappy events which have occurred in the departments with which he has been connected. It is the fault of the man who appointed him.

Trinidad C. de Baca was McDonald's selection for state game warden out a large field of candidates, many of them competent men. Since he took office in 1913 de Baca has spent \$45,500 of money paid into his office by the sportsmen of this state. He has put back into fish, game animals and birds less than \$2500. The sportsmen have not failed to protest to McDonald. They have told the governor what they think of his game warden—and they have been laughed at for their pains and thereafter ignored. De Baca is another "deserving" democrat.

Robert H. Crews of Albuquerque is secretary of the sheep sanitary board, the most important official board of this state, because it has charge of the state's most important industry. Crews is a competent lawyer; and he is a "deserving" democrat; but he couldn't tell an Angora goat from Shropshire dam if he met them in the road. The sheep men have protested to McDonald against the grave injury being done the industry. But McDonald, serenely indifferent, has told them to forget it—and let his official favorites alone.

McDonald was warned when he picked his board of regents for the state agricultural college

## A CONTEST OF CHARACTER, NOT OF WEASEL WORDS

CARDINAL QUESTION IN THIS CAMPAIGN IS WHETHER THE PEOPLE WANT IN THE WHITE HOUSE A PHRASE-MAKER, OR A MAN WHO BACKS WORDS WITH DEEDS.

Woodrow Wilson excels in the artistry of politics beyond the capacity of Charles Evans Hughes to compete. Were the current campaign a game of professional politics instead of a contest of character between two candidates for the highest office in the gift of the people, Mr. Wilson would walk away with the prize next November. All his life he has made a study of form—first of literary form—and latterly of political form. In the first period he mastered a style peculiarly his own, and peculiarly characteristic. The study of words and their multiplicity of meaning always fascinates him, so much that a Princeton classmate recently said of him: "Tommy has lived with words so long he thinks they are real things." Thence comes his collection of what Theodore Roosevelt's Maine Guide calls "weasel words." That is—he can take a word and weasel it around and suck the meaning out of it like a weasel sucks an egg, until it don't mean anything at all, no matter what it sounds like it means. Thence came also the series of catch phrases, so fascinating in sound, so false in suggestion; so easy to read, so hard to understand. So it is that he is able to be on all sides of every public question, while covering his circuitous course with a flow of words that roll as easily from his pen as a brook through the meadow. It is his artfulness in the use of words that enables him to pose as "an amateur in politics," while playing the game with the skill of a professional. Whatever his ineptitude in other respects, he is easily first among presidents in the artistry of politics, and he would win next November, were that the test.

Compare the willingness of Mr. Wilson with the straightforwardness of Mr. Hughes. Compare the smooth style of the one with the rugged diction of the other. The one is as complex in the use of words as the other is simple. It is a case of sonorousness versus strength. Mr. Hughes is depending upon the strategy of straightforwardness and the strength of sincerity; upon the force of facts, instead of upon the fiction of a phrase, to win his case before the jury of the nation. His appeal is to the head and not the ear of the people; to their intelligence and not to their emotion; to their heroic side and not to their hysterical side. It is an appeal to the courage of the country and not to its cowardice. Mr. Hughes could not, if he would, perform in a year the political tricks that Mr. Wilson can do in a day. The question today is whether the people want in the White House for the next four years a phrase-maker or a history-maker; a man of many sayings, or a man who backs his words with deeds. There is a fundamental difference between the two candidates, which marks the line of cleavage in this extraordinary campaign—"Hughes means what he says."

one of the McDonald campaign obligations by applying on their note the interest on the college funds.

A fine collection of incompetents, all "deserving democrats" have found their way into what should be responsible public offices in this state under William C. McDonald, the man who promised New Mexico "a clean, business administration". Wiser heads in his own party warned him and argued with him and even pleaded with him. But it didn't phase the "hard headed Scotch business man" from Lincoln county. He knew the kind of men he wanted in his administration, and he got them.

McDonald has set a standard in awarding jobs to "deserving democrats" that puts the record of the Wilson administration into the discard.

## BROTHERHOODS WIN, FARMERS' WIVES LOSE

Democrats Unctuously but Vainly Flatter Themselves That Tillers of the Soil Believe Their Bunk Uplift Laws Will Improve Agricultural Conditions.

### FARING WORSE THAN LOWLIEST RAILROAD HAND

Plight of Women Laborers in the Fields Described by President Pope of the Association of State Presidents of the Farmers' Union as More Deplorable Than During the Days of Slavery, and Yet Not a Word Was Spoken in the Last Congress, Which Is Boasting of Its Farm Legislation, About the Woman Who Rakes the Hay and Gathers the Sheaves.

That the increase in pay of members of the four railroad brotherhoods, caused by the enactment of the eight-hour day law by Congress, will rest ultimately upon the farmer was asserted by Henry N. Pope, newly elected president of the Association of State Presidents of the Farmers' Union, in a statement issued by him.

Mr. Pope declared that the farmers of the country stand for a fair wage for both labor and capital and favor an eight-hour working day, but that he personally doubted the wisdom of Congress fixing wages for labor employed by private enterprise. "I doubt," said he, "if it is in the interest of either labor, capital or the people to make the wage schedule of railroad employees a political issue."

The condition of the farmers of the country is worse than that of the most lowly railroad laborer, Mr. Pope stated, with an average farm income of only \$1.47 a day, out of which must be paid the expenses of the family. The condition of women laborers in the fields he describes as worse than during the days of slavery.

Not a Word for Farmers. "Not a word has been spoken by Congress in defense of the woman who rakes the hay and gathers the sheaves," said Mr. Pope. "Little has been done that has increased the income of the farmer or enabled him to pay a higher wage to his laborers."

"But today we find the highest paid laborers in the world, making three times more money than a farmer, demanding twenty-five per cent increase, and Congress hastening to their relief. This increase must, in the end, rest upon the back of the farmer and will reduce his income, increase his hours of labor, and call for another levy of farm mothers from the home to the field."

"The farmers of this nation must fight to hold what they have and to get what is rightfully theirs from the government. We must do it through organization."

Mr. Pope stated that by the enactment of the eight-hour day law Congress had thrust upon the people of the country a new responsibility and organized labor now stands committed to the principle of government regulation of wages. The government, he said, should fix wages for all classes of railroad employees and should have the power to decrease as well as to increase wages to remedy comparative inequalities.

"Square Deal" for All.

"In my opinion," he continued, "the next session of Congress should readjust the wages of all railroad employees, from railroad president to section laborer, giving all a square deal and fixing a schedule of pay based upon business justice and human rights. I submit a schedule of wages taken from official government reports which presents conclusive evidence of the inequalities of the present daily wage scale of railroad employees:

"General officers, \$16.11; other officers, \$6.49; general office clerks, \$2.53; station agents, \$2.37; other station men, \$1.99; engineers, \$5.28; firemen, \$3.23; conductors, \$4.49; other trainmen, \$3.11; all shopmen, \$2.37, and trackmen, \$1.50."

Mr. Pope declared that the foregoing schedule showed that the 350,000 section hands in the country were condemned to a life of poverty. He said he believed that Congress, having undertaken to regulate the wages of higher paid employees, should review their wages.

that he might go outside the immediate circle of his favorite ring, and do much better, but at least two of the boys McDonald picked were "deserving democrats" and—they paid off

## THE UNHAPPY "NEW MEXICAN"

The Santa Fe New Mexican is passing through a series of nervous chills. Since long before the state conventions it has been out streams of slander, abuse and plain, or garden lies about every Republican in the state of any prominence or of any positions of leadership. Since the conventions were held its exertions have been put forward to the utmost limit of libel production.

Suddenly the New Mexican has found itself confronted with facts from the public records:—Not ancient, doubtful, alleged records, but from the immediate, well remembered, clearly written records of the men who the New Mexican has been holding up to the people as paragons of official rectitude and of model private lives and personal character. For a few days the New Mexican tried to becloud the issue with an increased output of mud. But having reached its maximum, the attempt resulted in failure.

Then a few pages of the sworn public record of Governor McDonald was offered to the paper at paid advertising rates. The New Mexican refused to print the truth, under any conditions. It announced that "no decent newspaper" would print such records, meaning the facts in the McDonald public record.

The unhappy newspapers of New Mexico, about ninety-eight per cent of them, have been shocked, not to say grieved, by this assault upon them by the cultivated organ of the Democratic gang at Santa Fe. We find some slight consolation, however, in the fact that among the newspapers which the New Mexican brands as "indecent" are the Albuquerque Journal, the Albuquerque Herald, the Las Vegas Optic, the Raton Range, the Raton Reporter, and a list of others that strangely resembles the New Mexico newspaper directory, complete, save for one or two papers which fear to hurt the New Mexican's sensitive feelings.

The New Mexican, it seems, is almost alone in its "decent" aversion to printing the truth. Its nervousness over its not un-

reasonable fear of being discredited has now reached the stage of an editorial fit.

If the New Mexican reaches a stage of wild hysteria over so well understood a matter as the ugly record of the McDonald administration in the Las Cruces bank scandal; if the mere Democratic crime of appropriating the sacred funds of the state Agricultural college for payment of democratic political campaign notes can so agitate this virtuous consumer of unearned increment; there is cause for alarm as to what will happen to it when it is invited to consider for the information of its readers the official record of Ezequiel Cabeza de Baca, democratic candidate for governor; of A. A. Jones, also of San Miguel county and the once famous Democratic regime in that county; of Gillie Otero, the New Mexican's political factotum and once proprietor of the pardon bureau and the official sheep ranch, and of that exemplary family institution of the office of Secretary of State Antonio Lucero, also of the democratic machine of San Miguel county.

The New Mexican has gone nearly as far as it can go with personal abuse. There is a limit to the language, even to language which ordinarily "indecent" newspapers do not send into the homes of their readers. It has now reached a stage where the New Mexican must choose between being permanently discredited, or of taking up the real issues in this campaign about which the people are demanding to know—the truth.

### Political Jottings

If plans to get Villa are abandoned Villa should reciprocate and refrain from organizing expeditions "to get" American citizens.

The fact that Mr. Wilson could endorse this Pork Congress shows that he isn't senile, anyway.

Mr. Pinchot also seems of the opinion that God Hates a Quitter.

The man who quotes the Baltimore platform is regarded as a political archeologist.

"He kept the country out of war," but he robbed it of its peace.

Up in Maine they are now rhyming Hughes with Moose. And there is reason as well as rhyme connecting the two words.

"Victory," Mr. Fairbanks told Oklahoma Republicans, "surely will perch on our banner." But Champ Clark tied it up in a neater and more compact bundle when he said: "They licked hell out of us."

Members of President Wilson's cabinet are ready to do anything to re-elect their chief, except resign.

## WHAT HUGHES WOULD HAVE LEFT UNDONE

That Is Campaign's True Angle and Not the Trite Question with Which Hecklers Are Nagging the Republican Standard Bearer.

### ACHIEVEMENTS ASSURANCE BLUNDERING IS NO HABIT

Winning Democrats Trying to Run Away From the Record of the Administration and to Inveigle the Voters Down Rhetorical By-Paths, All in the Thinly-Disguised Effort to Change the Subject.

When Mr. Hughes criticizes the record of the Administration the spokesmen of Mr. Wilson cry: "What would you have done?" They forget that it is Mr. Wilson and not Mr. Hughes who is on trial. They forget that four years ago Mr. Wilson criticized Mr. Taft and Mr. Roosevelt throughout the campaign and that Mr. Taft and Mr. Roosevelt defended their respective records, instead of crying "What would you have done?" They forget these things or they refuse to confess them. They are trying to run away from the record of the Administration and induce the people to follow them down some by-path of rhetorical hypothesis, all in the effort to change the subject.

"By their fruits ye shall know them." When Mr. Hughes was Governor of New York he did not pay political debts by filling the public offices with unfit men. He did not champion certain principles during his campaign and repudiate them after he entered office. As Governor, he did not resort to brave and beautiful words as a substitute for firm and consistent deeds. He was careful in his use of words but he backed his words with deeds. He did not promise what he could not perform. He did not plaster the people with compliments they did not deserve. He was not a rhetorician, he was not a flatterer, he was not "too proud to fight" for labor or for capital, for the strong or the weak, when the right was on their side.

Mr. Wilson's spokesmen seek to divert attention from the attacks Mr. Hughes is making upon the record of the Administration by asking him: "What would you do?" They are unconsciously helping Mr. Hughes. They are recalling to the memory of the people the record he made throughout his two terms as Governor of New York. It was then that he first said "public office shall not be a private snap under my administration," and made performance square with promise. There is this about Mr. Hughes that makes him so different from Mr. Wilson: "Hughes means what he says." So it is that the campaign is really a contest of character between two men, with sincerity as the differentiating and deciding factor.

### FIERY WORDS.

"Direct violations of a nation's sovereignty cannot await vindication in suits for damages—the nation which violates those essential rights must be checked and called to account by direct challenge and resistance."—From Woodrow Wilson's speech accepting the Democratic nomination for presidency.

BUT—

The American flag is still unsaluted at Vera Cruz.

Villa is still uncaptured and unpunished.

Carranza still ships the United States.

There still has been no accounting for American lives and property destroyed in Mexico.

The whole question of reparation for invasion of American rights by various warring nations is still sleeping in a pigeonhole.

AND—

All the "direct challenge and resistance" attributable to the average American, is included in a series of notes said to possess high literary quality; if nothing else in particular.

### The Soldier Vote.

A significant feature following the Maine election was the nature of the soldier vote.

It is reported that one Maine battalion hiked 60 miles in two days for the purpose of exercising the franchise.

And we know how they voted!

Josephus Daniels might have made a passable secretary of the Salvation Army, but it was pretty rough to impose him on Uncle Sam's fighting boys.